

Legal Notice of Availability Opportunity to Comment Draft Forest Plan and Draft EIS The Lincoln National Forest (NF) draft land management plan and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) with appendices are now available for public review and comment. The Lincoln NF is revising its 1986 plan in compliance with the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.17 (3)(b)(1)). The area affected by the proposal includes nearly 1.1 million acres of National Forest System land across the southeast New Mexico counties of Chaves, Eddy, Lincoln and Otero. The Responsible Official is the Lincoln NF Supervisor, Travis Moseley. The draft plan and DEIS are available electronically on the Lincoln NF plan revision website,

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lincoln/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3814307>. Printed versions will be available at Lincoln NF ranger district offices, at the supervisor's office, and at area libraries. Additional printed versions may be requested via email, Inf_fpr_comments@usda.gov, or by calling 575-434-7200.

How to Comment and Timeframe The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability for the DEIS in the August 6, 2021 edition of the Federal Register. Electronic, written, or hand-delivered comments concerning these documents will be accepted for 90 days following that day. The publication date of the NOA in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for the draft plan and DEIS.

Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The decision to approve the draft land management plan for the Lincoln NF will be subject to the objection process identified in the 2012 Planning Rule Objection Process at 36 CFR 219 subpart b (219.50 to 219.62). Only those individuals and entities who have submitted substantive comments related to the Lincoln NF plan revision during the opportunities provided for public comment will be eligible to file an objection (36 CFR 219.52(a)). Final plan approval is expected by early 2023. Comments should be

provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in the 2012 Planning Rule Objection Process. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in the 2012 Planning Rule Objection Process. Electronic comments may be submitted by following the link <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45148>, follow the Get Connected tab to Comment. Written comments may be delivered weekdays 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday (except holidays) to any Lincoln National Forest office. Comments delivered by U.S. mail may be sent to Diane Prather, Forest Planner; 3463 Las Palomas, Alamogordo, NM 88310. To be accepted, all comments must be postmarked by the last date of the comment period. #4852271, Daily News, August 6, 2021

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